



What is Weed and Seed and what does it mean to your neighborhood?

Weed and Seed, a community-based strategy sponsored by the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), is an innovative, comprehensive multi agency approach to law enforcement, crime prevention, and community revitalization. The Community Capacity Development Office oversees the Weed and Seed initiative.

Weed and Seed is foremost a **strategy**—rather than a grant program—that aims to prevent, control, and reduce violent crime, drug abuse, and gang activity in the Upper Albany Clay Arsenal neighborhoods.

The strategy involves a two-pronged approach: law enforcement agencies and prosecutors cooperate in "weeding out" violent criminals and drug abusers and public agencies and community-based private organizations collaborate to "seed" much-needed human services, including prevention, intervention, treatment, and neighborhood restoration programs.

A community-oriented policing component bridges the weeding and seeding elements. **Youth- and adult-oriented services are delivered.** Through coordinated efforts, Weed and Seed joins various task forces of **Law Enforcement Agencies** from all levels of government who aim to reduce both crime and fear of crime, which gives back hope to residents living in distressed neighborhoods and sets the stage for community revitalization. **Community Policing** embraces two key concepts—community engagement and problem solving. Community policing strategies foster a sense of responsibility within the community for solving crime problems and help develop cooperative relationships between the police and residents.

The **Prevention, Intervention, and Treatment** component concentrates an array of human services in the UA/CA neighborhood and links law enforcement, social services agencies, the private sector, and the community to improve the overall quality of services to residents. The UA/CA Weed and Seed site has established Safe Havens, a multiservice center often housed in a school or community center, where d use of federal, state, local, and private-sector resources, **Neighborhood Restoration** strategies focus on economic development, employment opportunities for residents, and improvements to the housing stock and physical environment of the neighborhood. The "Weeding" component weeds out Crime, while the "Seeding component, seeds the community with social services and resource.

Improve the quality of life in your community by joining "Weed & Seed". Contact Officer Kevin O'Brien, Weed and Seed Coordinator, at 860-757-4014 for more information.

Do you want to see a CHANGE?

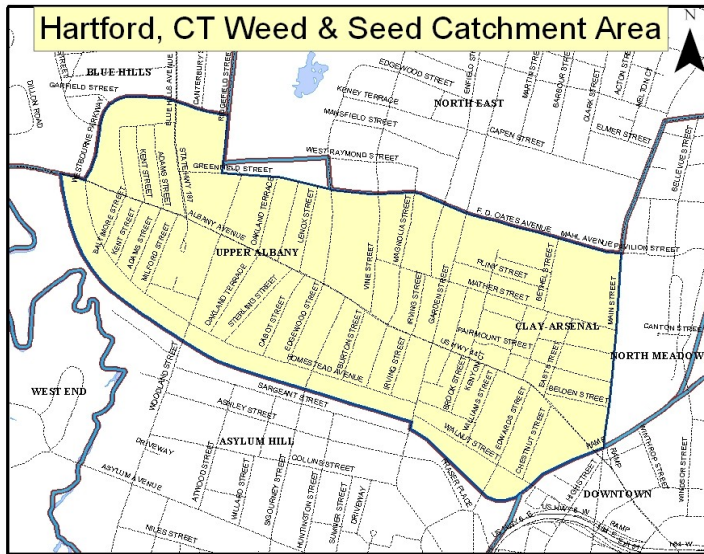
Attend the Weed and Seed Steering Committee meeting held the third Wednesday of every month beginning at 5 p.m. at The Artists Collective, 1200 Albany Avenue, Hartford

About Weed and Seed

Catchment Area

Strategic Goals

Steering Committee



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The Upper Albany/Clay Arsenal (UACA) site received Weed and Seed Official Recognition from the Department of Justice/Office of Justice Programs on June 1, 2005, and serves a combined population of 11,435 residents for these two Hartford neighborhoods within a .83 square mile area. The UACA Weed and Seed area boundaries are as follows: Ann Street (east), Homestead Avenue (south), Homestead Avenue and Westbourne Parkway (west), Westbourne Parkway and Greenfield Street and Mahl Avenue (north).

The Upper Albany/Clay Arsenal (UACA) **Weed and Seed Steering Committee (WSSC)** consists of several members, and is headed by an Executive Committee, which is composed of WSSC chairman Brian Leaming (U.S. Attorney's Office appointee) and WSSC co-chairman HPD Captain Scott Sansom, UACA Site Coordinator (Officer Kevin O'Brien) and the chairpersons of the Weed and Seed subcommittees.

Members of the WSSC are responsible for strategic planning, policymaking, and management of the Weed and Seed project. The WSSC focuses on defining the vision for this project, conducting and analyzing needs assessments, setting goals, establishing an evaluation plan, and maintaining viable subcommittees and work groups to oversee daily operations.

WSSC activities also include policy development, creation of inter-agency procedures and protocols, project management, and advocacy. It initiates program adjustments based on progress reports. The WSSC mediates and resolves implementation issues and coordinates cross-agency collaborations. Overall, the WSSC ensures that weeding and seeding activities are fully integrated, works on grant applications to obtain funding for programs, and oversees the work of the coordinator and project evaluator.

Weed & Seed Strategic Goals

Law Enforcement

The crime prevention efforts began in the Upper Albany/Clay Arsenal (UACA) neighborhoods in large part because of the increase in gun violence in these areas. The UACA Weed and Seed efforts continue to strive in reducing gun violence. Deeply connected with the gun violence is the narcotics trade, which is in fact most often the cause of the gun violence. Therefore, the law enforcement strategy also will continue to address narcotics sales in the UACA.

Community Policing

The UACA Weed and Seed remains focused on creating a safer, more attractive community for residents, businesses, customers, and visitors. Law enforcement personnel are engaged by community residents and businesses to find ways to improve the quality of life within their communities. Citizens will be mobilized to take control of their home neighborhoods through an ongoing effort to increase citizen training.

Prevention, Intervention, Treatment (PIT)

In an effort to address underlying root causes of crime, Weed & Seed works towards developing partnerships that can address the systemic problems in the UACA, such as domestic violence and child abuse, poverty, lack of youth activities and youth direction, the difficulty of re-entry for offenders, easy access to guns, etc. Young men in the UACA in particular need to have established life goals and to believe that they can find ways to support themselves and their young families through fulfilling work that pays an adult wage. Extending the concern with youth and the young people in the UACA, PIT strategies continue to focus on building collaborative partnerships to develop safe havens and "safe haven programs" in the community, particularly after-school and weekend youth activities.

Neighborhood Restoration

UACA neighborhoods are being mobilized. Merchants remain encouraged to clean up the area surrounding their business and to take action to prevent crime. Youth will be further engaged in activities that promote neighborhood beautification and pride. A primary strategic goal is to enhance the quality of life in the UACA by reducing neighborhood disorder. Efforts have been ongoing to organize citizens and businesses on public safety issues, enhance the commercial streetscape, and to improve the cleanliness and appearance of the neighborhoods. Projects have been initiated with city government that fund efforts to revitalize neighborhoods within the UACA, including improvements in facades, street lighting, and sidewalks.

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Eddie A. Perez
Mayor



Daryl K. Roberts
Chief of Police

Upper Albany and Clay Arsenal Weed and Seed Steering Committee Members

Brian P. Leaming, Assistant US Attorney, District of CT, Chairman

Captain Scott Sansom, Hartford Police Department, Co-Chairman

Lieutenant Michael Cacioli, Zone Commander, Hartford Police Department

Lori Vernali, LECC, U.S. Attorney's Office, District of CT

David L. Lanzoni, USDOJ Drug Enforcement Administration

Gwendowlyn Hall, City of Hartford Mayors Office

Chuck Cummings, City of Hartford Office of Youth Services

Albert DiChiara, Ph.D., University of Hartford

Lynn Ford, Hartford Neighborhood Centers

Jean Holloway, Clay Arsenal Resident

Denise Best, Upper Albany Resident/Christian Activities Council

Isabel Osorio-Vasquez, Clay Arsenal Resident

Marilyn Risi, Upper Albany Main Street Association

Rev. Don Steinle, Christian Activities Council

Patricia Williams, Upper Albany Neighborhood Collaborative

Dorothy Jackson, Clay Arsenal Resident

Clive Pearson, Upper Albany Resident/State Department of Families and Children

Teaon Tinker, Clay Arsenal Resident

Officer Kevin O'Brien, Weed and Seed Coordinator

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Visit the HPD's Official website: www.hartford.gov/police

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